CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR EDITOR:—We take the EVANGELIST and like it very much. We would feel very lonely without the paper in our family. It cheers our hearts when we read the prayers that are being written by the dear brethren and sisters. We live here in Dakota, isolated from the Brethren church, but we look forward to a better time in the future.

My object in writing is to inform the brethren and sisters of this grand and beautiful country we have here in the West. We have good soil, good water, good neighbors and friends. All we ask for, is for good members to move in here. Some say we have too many storms, and blizzards in D. T. We have not had the bad storms here as yet, as else where, and I have not seen any thing that looked like a blizzard this winter. If the dear brethren will give us a call as they go West, we will try and suit them here. You can get good homes here with small means. There are only three members here, husband, sister and the writer. There are some here who have said they would unite with us if we had a church here. Come; there is a good field open here; always a good turnout when there is church.

I will close by asking an interest in the prayers of all. I remain your sister.

MINNIE E. BRENAMAN.

Alpena, Dakota.

I will give a short history of our home church here at Middle Port, Ind. It is midway between Elkhart and Goshen. This church was organized by Elder F. A. Hendrix, of Jasper Co., Missouri, about twelve years ago. In about six years after I took charge of the church, then known as the Congregational Brethren, at the same time I took the oversight of three other branches of the church with the one that J. Cripe referred to in EVANGELIST, No. 4. I want to write a more correct statement, in reference to what J. C. said about the coldness toward him, for which the church at La Paz as well as other branches, in other places have reasons. The church at La Paz is in about as healthy condition as any other branch where they have not had regular preaching. I, for three years preached for the La Paz brethren, in which time, there were nineteen added by baptism from the world, only one from the G. B. church; after which brother J. H. Swihart came to our relief, and preached for one year, in which time there were six more added. Since that time Brother Abott has been laboring for them and five more were added. Last June they had their communion and two were added.

I met with the brethren on the occasion and found brother Holsinger and brother Perry, and Bro. Fitzgerald present. About fifty communed, while some were sick and could not.

In November I again visited this branch of the church and found all well, with warm feeling toward the writer. Strong solicitations for our return soon and the dollars and quarters which came in bear testimony. This branch of the church is about thirty-three miles southwest of our home church, which renders it impossible to meet with them as often as we would desire. I shall if nothing prevents meet with them in the near future.

Our home church, as brother Cober stated in his article, has a hard time for its life, as it has all to contend with that any church on earth can have. With all this we are trying to hold the fort. Since we have taken charge there has been nine additions and two reclaimed. On the 13th of Jan., 86, Bro. A. A. Cober came to our relief and four more were added. Three were heads of families. On the 27th of Feb., we held a business meeting which resulted in the restoring of two again in full fellowship with the church. Such meetings are pleasant to attend, as we were made to believe that all present were made to rejoice. Amidst the strong persecution we live and travel slow, but sure.

May the Lord bless us here at Middle Port, hoping the time will soon come when those strong persecutions will cease here and the brethren's cause prosper.

Both editor and reader, when it goes well with other branches of the church, do not forget the branch at Middle Port, Ind., in your prayers.

Elkhart, Ind. D. S. CRIPE.

Saloons and their Allurements.

First, what is a saloon? I say it is a place where are kept all kinds of intoxicating drinks, candy, cigars and billiard tables; and above all, the worst thing to draw the boys and young men into these miserable dens is the pool-table. The truth of the matter is they are the surest and shortest road to ruin, destruction and everlasting damnation that any young man can travel on. Unless something is done to overcome these dens and save the many thousands of young men who are daily walking on this road to destruction, we will have something awful to answer for when we come to that final judgment. I say something must be done to save our fellowman if possible. Look at the many poor mothers who sit around their firesides if they have one, (and I am afraid that is the worst of it some of them have none) and wonder, "Where is my boy tonight." Imagine if you could feel the agony of those mothers as they kneel in some corner or closet with the tears streaming down their cheeks offering up their prayers in behalf of their wandering boys who may be in one of these dens of ruin, I am sure you would say with me something must be done to save these boys and young men.

Some say in Iowa they have a prohibition law why don't they enforce it? But we want more than a prohibition law against the sale of liquor. We want a law that will prohibit the manufacture of these abominable pool and billiard tables and all alcoholic drinks. Then we could send out our missionaries and probably save a great many of the young men who are not too near the fatal precipice. If we could have the money that is spent in these abominable saloons to help send out missionaries a great and grand work might be done.

In Proverbs we read, "Wine is a mocker, strong is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." At another place we read, "Touch not, taste not, and handle not" that which is evil. And I am sure the handling of liquor is evil. At one place it says take a little wine for your stomach's sake; but it don't say take a little beer a little whiskey and a little champagne cider for your stomach's sake. No indeed, it don't. It would have been a good deal better for the people if they had never seen any liquor, and, especially, the saloon keepers, for I am afraid they will have something to answer for. I say again if we could do away with the saloons and gambling dens and take the money that is spent there and send out missionaries there could be one of the most glorious revivals, and the angels in heaven would rejoice.

Yours in love,

WM. P. COBAUGH.

Waterloo, Iowa, Mar. 12 1886.

The Departing.

One by one those of the household of faith are called to pass from time to eternity, and we are left to ask who will be next? In No. 5 of the EVANGELIST, in glancing over its columns we noticed an obituary notice of our beloved bro. J. A. Clement of the Sandy church, Stark Co., O.

His death was truly a sad one. I express my heartfelt sympathy to the dear sister, who is bereft of a kind and loving husband, the children a fond and affectionate father, and the church a dear brother and pastor. During the summer of '81, after attending the A. M. at Ashland, O., I had the pleasure of hearing his gentle and loving voice proclaim God's word to a dying people. At a love-feast at the East Nimisila church I heard him speak in the French language, (as there were some brothers and sisters that scarcely understoood the English or German) and with what earnestness of voice and moistened eyelids he admonished them to still cling to Jesus. Although there was but one word (Jerusalem) that I understood, (as I do not understand French) yet from his contenance I knew his words were words of love and consolation. Then do we well remember our visit to the church there, and to his pelasant home. Also the donation he gave us for the Orphan's home at Huntingdon, Pa., contributed by their S. S., and the meeting around the family alter at our beloved sister Gans'. These are bright oases in our memory. The voice of our dear brother is hushed in death as is also that of our beloved sister Maria Shriver of the same congregation, which notice appeared in G. M. No. 2. Sister Hoover has also our heartfelt sympathy in the death of the above, her sister in the flesh.

Bro. Milton Wise of the West Nimisila congregation was another of the loved ones who was so suddenly called to eternity, whose obituary notice also appeared in B. E. His dear parents had our heartfelt sympathy an condolence, and the dear little blind sister. We also shared the hospitality of their lovely home. May God ever be with the bereft. May they look to Jesus! He will heal the wounded hearts, and bind up the broken ones. I would have been pleased to see a more extended obituary notice of bro. Clement.

EMILY STIFLER.

Have Faithin God.

There has been considerable said on the subject of prayer in our paper; yet I think there cannot be too much said in regard to this important part of our Christian duty. As I read the many precious promises in the Bible that God has meant for us, we who live now; not those only that were on earth when Christ was here in the likeness of man, when he healed the sick, the blind and the lame. But to you, poor troubled Christian, God has said, know that the Lord thy God he is good, the faithful God which keepeth covenant, and mercy with them that love him, and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. And hath he not said my word shall stand forever, and my faithfulness shall not fail. We are too apt to think God did not mean us. Let us pray for more faith. Then when we have asked God in the name of Jesus Christ, and feel assured your prayer is heard, then you must apply God's own words and have faith in God, and expect to have your faith tried. But remember God cannot lie. He does not slumber nor sleep. He will not forsake you as long as you do not forsake him. Was there ever a Christian who faithfully trusted the Lord in vain?

When your prayers are answered do not fail to give God the honor. Tell it to others and encourage them to put their trust where it need fear no betrayal. Is there a sinner in distress who has never trusted in a Heavenly friend. You do not know what to do or where to look to for help. Now look to Jesus. Promise him if he will deliver you, you will give him your heart forever. Then when the help comes do not fail to keep your promise. Then you can always look to those words as meant for you; "Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify me." There are many words and promises we should remember, yet remember this, Thy will be done.

Now Is the Time.

God says "now!" Do you say "now?" Why not "now?" "Now" is the accepted; the day of salvation; the *best* time; the *only* time. Whenever your salvation occurs, it must be in some "now" Why be cheated out of present salvation and present blessings that might come to us in this "now," in waiting for some other "now"? For many reasons, yea, for every reason, that other "now" cannot be as good as this "now." We will be better, we must be worse: we will have more to do, and less time to do it in. It may be "now" or "never." Disability, disinclination, or death may be in the near future. There is no promise for that other "now," but "all the promises of God are yea and amen in Christ Jesus" in this "now." Come now to Christ and be saved!

SELECTED.

The Sins of His Youth.

At a recent meeting an evangelist said: "I know a man who is very ill; I do not suppose he will ever get better. I have visited him several times, and referring to his spiritual state, he observed: 'I feel my old sins, the sins of my youth, all coming up. I believe I am a worse sinner than ever I was.' Ah, dear friends, I think Jesus is coming nearer to that man, although he knows it not. The more we see of Christ, the more do we loathe ourselves. What a mercy it is to know that the sins of all who look to Him are blotted out and forgiven."